By the King.

A Proclamation for reformation of great abuſes in Meaſures.

WHereas for the auoiding of varietie and deceits of Weights and Meaſures, diuers Statutes, Acts and good Ordinances haue heretofore beene made, That one Weight, and one Meaſure ſhould bee vſed throughout the Realme, And where, according to the Statutes made in the eleuenth and twelfth yeeres of the reigne of the late king of famous memorie King henry the ſeuenth, there were made, ſent, and deliuered into diuers Cities and Townes, ſpecified in a Schedule vnto the ſayd Acte of 11.H.7. annexed, Weights and Meaſures of Braſſe according to the Standards thereof remaining in the Treaſurie of the Exchequer, to remaine in the keeping of the Maior, Bayliffe, or other head Officer for the time being, of euery of the ſame Citie or Towne, as the kings Standard of Weight and Meaſure, With authoritie and power giuen by the ſame Statute, to the ſayd Maior, Bailiffe, or other head Officer, hauing the ſayd Weights and Meaſures, to make, ſigne and print like Weights and Meaſures vnto euery of the kings ſubiects, duely requiring the ſame, as by the ſayde Statutes more at large appeareth: And Whereas alſo our late Soueraigne Lady Elizabeth late Queen of England, being enformed that the ſaid Standard meaſures remaining in thoſe Cities and Townes, for the moſt part were by long continuance of time, or for want of good keeping, or other defects or abuſes, differing & not agreeing With the ancient Standard of Meaſures remaining in her Highneſſe Exchequer at Weſtminſter, by occaſion Whereof the Meaſures commonly vſed Within the Realme were vncertain, & varying one from another, to the great ſlander of the ſame, the diſquieting of the Subiects, and the deceiuing of many both buyers and ſellers, Did giue order and commandement to the L. Treaſurer and vnder Treaſurer, to cauſe all the ancient Standard meaſures of all thoſe ſeuerall Cities and Townes to be brought in before them at the Exchequer at Weſtminſter, to be examined and tryed by the Standard meaſure there remaining, according to Which her Maieſties commandement, the Lord Treaſurer and vnder Treaſurer haue cauſed all the ancient Standard meaſures of all thoſe ſeuerall Cities and Townes to be brought before them into the ſayd Exchequer, Where diuerſe of them vpon diligent and due triall and examination haue bene found defectiue, differing and diſagreeing from the true and ancient Standard of the ſayd Exchequer.

Whereupon the ſayd late Queene intending the common & publique good of all her louing Subiects, and to auoide all differences and deceipts of Meaſure Within her Highneſſe Realme, vpon good and deliberate aduiſe, and due conſideration therein had, Did not onely eſtabliſh the foreſayd true and ancient Standard of Meaſures remaining in the ſayd Exchequer, there to continue and be, as her Maieſties Standard, to examine, trie, and ſize all other Meaſures of the Realme by, from time to time as occaſion ſhall require: But alſo did giue commandement to the Lord Treaſurer and vnder Treaſurer to cauſe all the other Meaſures Which were brought before them (from the Cities and Townes afore ſaid) found vpon triall to be differing and diſagreeing from the true and ancient Standards of meaſures of the ſayd Exchequer, to be broken.

And further her Maieſtie did giue order and commandement vnto the ſayd Lord Treaſurer and vnder Treaſurer, forthwith to cauſe new Standards of meaſures in Braſſe to be made, tryed, and approoued by the ſayd true and ancient Standard of the Exchequer, and after true and iuſt examination and triall thereof had and made, to ſize and ſeale (with the letter E crowned) ſuch and ſo many Standard meaſures, for euery of the ſaid ſeuerall Cities and Townes limited to haue the cuſtodie of Weights and meaſures, according to the Queenes Standard for euery Shire by the ſaid ſchedule annexed vnto the ſaid Statute made in the eleuenth yeere of the Reigne of King Henry the ſeuenth, there to remaine for euer in the keeping of the Mayor, Bayliffe, or other head Officer for the time being of the ſayd City and Towne as her Standard of meaſure, as to them ſhould ſeeme neceſſary and conuenient. And alſo as many as may ſerue and be conuenient for the Clarke of the Market of her Highneſſe houſhold (and through the Realme) or his Deputies, according to the Statute of Anno 18. R. 2. Cap 3. And alſo as might or ſhould ſerue for any other her Maieſties Officers or Subiects within this Realme, as ſhould make ſuite for the hauing and obtaining of the ſame.

And now our Soueraigne Lord the Kings Maieſtie, minding likewiſe the quiet and publique good of all his louing Subiects of the ſame, And for the right and iuſt maintenance, and execution of all thoſe good and godly Lawes in that behalfe heretofore made by his moſt noble Progenitors, to be daily vſed and put in execution amongſt all his ſayd Subiects of this his Highnes Realme of England, aſwell within Liberties as without; his Maieſties Will and pleaſure is, That the Mayors, Bayliffes, Portreues, Wardens, and other head Officers of euery of the ſayde Cities, Boroughes, Townes, Cinqueports, and places mentioned in the ſchedule annexed to the ſayde Statute of Anno 11. Hz. which haue not already receiued the ſayde new Standard Meaſure from the ſayd Exchequer, before the feaſt of All Saints next comming, at the common charge of the ſame place, ſhall ſend ſome ſufficient perſon vnto the ſayd Exchequer, authorized to receiue ſuch Standards as ſhall be deliuered vnto him, by the order and appoyntment of the ſayd Lord Treaſurer and vnder Treaſurer, for the ſayd City, Borough, Towne, or place, And to pay ſuch reaſonable prices for the ſame, as vpon true valuation of the ſame ſhalbe by the ſayd Lord Treaſurer and vnder Treaſurer rated or aſſeſſed: Which Standards, euery of the ſayd Maiors, Bayliffes, and other head Officers vnto whom it ſhall appertaine, ſhall ſafely keepe or cauſe to bee kept in ſome ſure and conuenient place in the ſame Citie, Borough, or Towne, and by them make or ſize, or cauſe to be made or ſized, other common Meaſures for the vſe of all maner of people in the ſame City, Borough, Towne, or place that ſhall haue cauſe to vſe Meaſures. And ſhall alſo make, ſigne, and paint with the firſt letter of the name of the ſame City, Borough, Towne, or place where the ſame meaſure ſhalbe ſo made, ſized, and painted, like Meaſures vnto euery of the Kings Subiects duely requiring the ſame, taking ſuch fees for the doing thereof as by the Statutes of the Realme are allowed, and no more. And euery of the ſayd Maiors, Bayliffes, and other head Officers of Cities, Boroughes, Townes, and places within this Realme, ſhall further do and cauſe to be done, all ſuch other Act and Actes, thing and things, for the prouiding, hauing, and vſing of the ſayde Standards of Meaſures, as be limited and appoynted to their or any of their authoritie by the ſayd Statutes made in the eleuenth and twelfth yeeres of the late King Henrie the ſeuenth, or any other Statute or Ordinance whatſoeuer: So as all the Meaſures through the Realme may bee reformed and made agreeable according to the Standard of the Exchequer, as by the ſayd Statutes in ſuch caſe is required. And his Maieſtie further ſtraightly chargeth and commandeth, That no perſon or perſons ſhall from the aforeſaide feaſt of All Saints next comming, vſe any other Meaſure or Meaſures, but ſuch

as shall be made or sized, and respectively agreeing with the sayd Standards, and printed and marked with the letter I crowned, with such markes and letters for euery towne as before is limitted, vpon paine to be apprehended, committed to prison, fined and punished, as contriuers and vsers of false Measures, according to the Statutes in that case made and prouided. And that this Proclamation for the better instructing of al his Maiesties Subiects, shall before the feast of All Saints nowe next comming, be proclaimed in euery Market towne thorow the Realme, and bee hanged vp, and fastened in a Table in the Market place by an Officer, where it may continue to bee seene and read by any that will. And that the defaults of Officers, of euery towne in this behalfe, shall bee enquired of and punished by the Iustices of Assise, and Iustices of Peace in their Sessions, according to their discretions, as contemners of his Maiesties commandement. And that all the Standards and Measures whatsoeuer, not sized, marked and printed, and made respectiuely agreeing to and with the foresaid Standard, and the true meaning of this proclamation, shall from the saide feast of All Saints next comming, which shalbe in the yeere of our Lord God 1603. be reputed and taken for vntrue measures, and shall be broken, defaced and destroyed by the owners of the same, or by such officers as haue or shal haue authority to enquire of false weights and measures.

And for the better execution hereof, his highnesse expresse commandement is, That all Maiors, Bailiffes, and other head officers of euery City, Shire, Towne, Borough, or Market within this Realme, shall immediatly after the sayde Feast of All Saints, and so from time to time according to the said Statute, as all other Corporate, Borough, or Market Townes within this Realme, cause to bee brought before them all the Measures, within the same Cities, Boroughs, Corporate or Market Townes, to bee duely viewed and examined, and such as they shall finde defectiue or disagreeing vnto the foresayd Standard Measures, either in greatnesse or smalnesse, to cause to be broken and defaced, and further punishment to be done vpon the offenders therein, according to the Statute. And that the Iustices of Peace, or two of them (whereof one of them to be of the Quorum) shall with all diligence and from time to time, by examination or enquirie heare and determine the defaults of all Maiors, Bayliffes, and other head Officers of Cities, Boroughs, Corporate or Market Townes within their limits or authorities on that behalfe, and to set Fines and Amercements vpon the offenders in that behalfe by their discretions, and those to estreate into the Court of Exchequer, and that vpon paine of the punishment due for such contempt.

And lastly, his Maiestie straightly chargeth and commandeth all Iustices of Assize, Iustices of Peace, his Highnesse Clerke of the Market, his deputie or deputies, Maiors, Bailiffes, Stewards of Liberties, and all other his Maiesties Officers and Ministers whatsoeuer, to cause this present Proclamation, and all Lawes, Statutes, and Ordinances, for the hauing and vsing of true Measures, and for the abolishing the vse of false Measures, to be put in execution according to their seuerall authorities and Iurisdictions, as they herein tender the good seruice of his Maiestie, and the Common wealth of this Realme.

Giuen at his Maiesties Castle of Windsor the fift day of July, 1603. in the first yeere of our Reigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the sixe and thirtieth.

God saue the King.

¶ Imprinted at London by Robert Barker, Printer to the Kings most excellent Maiestie.